

Common Questions Regarding Jury Service in Vigo County

What is a potential juror? A potential juror is a person who has completed a questionnaire for informational purposes only. The questionnaires will be reviewed and qualified citizens will be randomly selected to receive a summons report as a Prospective Jurors.

What is a prospective juror? A Prospective Juror is a person who has received a summons to appear in Court on a specific date and time for the jury selection process.

How many courts does Vigo County have? Vigo County has one Circuit Court, six Superior Courts, and one Juvenile Court. We have both Civil trials (typically 6 person juries) and Criminal trials (typically 12 person juries).

What if I'm medically unable to serve? If you're not physically able to come in to court, you need to check "yes" to the question #5 pertaining to physical and mental disability located in the Qualifications section of the questionnaire. Explain your medical condition in the space provided.

What if I'm over age 65? Persons over the age of 65 are no longer exempt based upon a new law effective July 1, 2006.

What do I do if I receive a questionnaire and it's for the former resident of my address? If you have opened the questionnaire in error, print your address and write "does not live at this address" on the questionnaire and return it in the envelope provided. If the person is a family member and you have contact with them, you may forward the questionnaire to them so that they may complete question #3, under the qualifications section. The Voter Registration Office will only remove registered voter's that have signed this form requesting to be removed.

What if I've moved out of Vigo County? If you have moved, you should complete question number three on the back of the Jury Questionnaire. If you are a registered voter in Vigo County and wish to have your name removed, check "yes" beside Box 3A and we will forward your request to the Voter Registration Office. You must sign and date the form.

What do I do if the potential juror receives a questionnaire and he/she is in the military? Write his/her name on the questionnaire and state that they are active in the military. Provide detailed information under the "remarks" section regarding when you expect them to return. Sign your name to the questionnaire and return it in the envelope provided.

Are college students exempt? No. You may request a deferment for up to a period of one year.

How do I request a deferral? One deferral, requested under oath, may be approved for up to one (1) year upon showing of hardship, extreme inconvenience, or necessity. To request a deferral you must complete the section of the Jury Questionnaire, giving reason for the request. The length of time granted for a deferral will be determined by the Judge or an appointed court officer. Deferrals must be requested when you return your questionnaire. If you receive a summons for jury duty, you are expected to report. All deferrals and exemptions shall be granted prior to receipt of the summons. If you have questions, contact the Jury Administrator, June Jackson, 812-462-3203 or via email at june.jackson@vigocounty.org. If you do not request a deferral before you receive a summons, and you have a family emergency unexpected deferral requests must be made in writing three days prior to the date of your summons.

What if I'm a convicted felon? Complete the questionnaire and return it. When you receive a summons, you need to report, the Judge will determine if you are eligible or not.

What if the person this questionnaire is addressed to is deceased? If the person receiving this questionnaire is deceased, put his/her name on the questionnaire and write "Deceased" return it in the

envelope provided.

How did you get my name? Names are drawn at the end of the year from a list approved by the Supreme Court. This list is compiled from the Bureau of Motor Vehicles and the Department of Revenue.

How long will I have to serve if I'm selected? When you are summoned to appear, you will take part in the selection of a jury for a trial scheduled to begin that day. If you are not selected, and you stay until you are excused, your term of service will be completed and you may claim exemption from jury service for a period of two (2) years. If you are selected you will be informed of the expected length of the trial. Each day's session usually begins between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m., with mid-morning break. The specific time you are to appear will be noted on your summons. You will be given approximately an hour for lunch, and a short mid-afternoon break. Court usually recesses each day between 4:00 and 5:00 p.m., although when the trial is completed and the case is given to the jury to decide, the jury may, if necessary, deliberate on the verdict into the evening hours. If you are selected and serve as a juror, you may claim exemption from jury service for a period of two (2) years.

What is a summons? When you are selected to be a prospective juror, you will be sent a Jury Summons that will list the day and time that you are to report to court. You will be instructed to call the Jury Information Line 812-232-5588 prior to appearing for jury service. Sometimes we have last minute cancellations that are recorded on the information line. Failure to call the information line and follow instructions will result in nonpayment for your appearance in court. If you appear for jury service and the trial was cancelled and the information recorded on the jury information line, you will be returned to the prospective juror pool and may be summoned again.

What about my employment? In accordance with I.C. 35-44-3-10, "a person who knowingly (1) dismisses his employee; (2) deprives his employee of employment benefits; or (3) threatens such a dismissal or deprivation; because his employee has..., served as a juror, or attended court for prospective jury service commits interference with jury service, a Class B misdemeanor." The Courts will provide, upon request, a letter of attendance for those jurors whose employers require them.

How much will I be paid? You will be paid \$15.00 plus mileage (.40 per mile) for your appearance as a prospective juror, even if you are not selected to serve, if you remain until the Judge has excused you. You will be paid \$40.00 per day, plus mileage for your appearance if you are selected to serve as a juror. Meals are provided by the Courts only during deliberation. Payment for jury service will be mailed to you approximately 30 days following the conclusion of the trial.

What do I need to wear? You should wear comfortable, but appropriate, businesslike clothing. Shorts, jeans, tank tops and sweatshirts should not be worn.

What about Courthouse security? No guns, knives, razors, scissors, or weapons of any kind are allowed in the Courthouse. You must leave all of these items at home. They cannot be brought into the Courthouse.

Who can I contact with questions? June Jackson is the Jury Administrator. She can be reached at 812-462-3203.